Dwindling Rice Export

497. SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of rice is dwindling since last year as compared to years prior to that;

(b) if so, the names of countries taking over that export;

(c) the quantity of rice exported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to boost export of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total quantity and value of rice (basmati and non-basmati) exported during the last three years is as under:

Quantity: Lakh Metric Tonne Value: Rupees Crores

Year	Basmatia rice		Non-ba	smati rice
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1999-2000	6.38	1780.34	12.58	1345.58
2000-01	8.49	2154.94	6.82	777.26
2001-02	6.66	1839.08	15.32	1324.36
2002-03 (Apr.-Nov., 2002)	3.70	1007.72	21.48	1527.80
(Apr-Nov.,2001)	4.02	1149.43	7.29	707.67

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Some of the measures taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaign, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers, providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and conducting market

surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible costs on account of marketing and transport.

Mini-Ministerial Meeting inTokyo

498. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that WTO is expected to discuss market access in agriculture and services, anti-dumping, Singapore issues etc. in the forthcoming Mini-Ministerial meeting inTokyo;

(b) if so, the stand taken by Government on these issues; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to protect that interest of Country on these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) An informal meeting of about 20Trade Ministers of Member States of WTO was held inTokyo at the invitation of Japanese Government from 14-16 February 2003. The Indian delegation was jointly led by Minister of Commerce & Industry and Law & Justice and Minister of Agiculture. The Director General of WTO also attended the informal mini-Ministerial meeting.

This meeting reviewed all major WTO issues under negotiations in the on-going Doha Work Programme, including market access for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services;TRIPS and Public Health; Special and DifferentialTreatment; Implementation-related issues and concerns; Rules; and the Singapore issues of Trade and Investment. Trade and Competition Policy, Transparency in Government Procurement and Trade Facilitation.

At this meeting, India forcefully articulated the need to restore the development agenda as the central focus of WTO negotiations, as mandated in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. India strongiy expressed its concern over the slow progress in the area of development-related issues such as TRIPS and Public Health; implementation issues and special and differential treatment issues and stated that the success or otherwise of the forthcoming Cancum Ministerial Conference of the WTO